

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
CENTRAL ISLIP DIVISION**

<b>CARDCONNECT, LLC,</b>	§	
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	§	
	§	
<b>v.</b>	§	
	§	<b>CASE NO. 2:20-cv-01526</b>
<b>LAW OFFICE OF FRANCISCO J.</b>	§	
<b>RODRIGUEZ and FRANCISCO J.</b>	§	
<b>RODRIGUEZ,</b>	§	
<b>Defendant.</b>	§	
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<b>LAW OFFICE OF FRANCISCO J.</b>	§	
<b>RODRIGUEZ and FRANCISCO J.</b>	§	
<b>RODRIGUEZ</b>	§	
<b>Defendant/Third-Party Plaintiff</b>	§	
	§	
<b>v.</b>	§	
	§	
<b>ANTONIO JUAREZ HERNANDEZ,</b>	§	
<b>NEREYDA VEGA, ROYAL LIBERTY</b>	§	
<b>OIL LEASING, LLC, AND ROYAL</b>	§	
<b>INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT</b>	§	
<b>GROUP, LLC</b>	§	
<b>Third-Party Defendants</b>	§	

**CONTROVERTING STATEMENT OF FACTS**

TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE:

COMES NOW LAW OFFICE OF FRANCISCO J. RODRIGUEZ and FRANCISCO J. RODRIGUEZ (“FJR”), Defendants/Third-Party Plaintiffs, and files this Controverting Statement of Material Facts pursuant to Local Rule 56.1 in opposition to Plaintiff CardConnect, LLC’s (“CardConnect”) Motion for Summary Judgment, Plaintiffs CardConnect, LLC’s Memorandum of Law In Support of Its Motion For Summary Judgment and more specifically, Plaintiff’s Statement of Undisputed Material Facts:

**“The Credit Card Payment Industry”**

1. FJR does not have sufficient personal knowledge to admit or deny this paragraph.

2. FJR does not have sufficient personal knowledge to admit or deny this paragraph.

3. FJR does not have sufficient personal knowledge to admit or deny this paragraph.

4. FJR does not have sufficient personal knowledge to admit or deny this paragraph.

5. FJR does not have sufficient personal knowledge to admit or deny this paragraph.

6. FJR does not have sufficient personal knowledge to admit or deny this paragraph.

7. FJR does not have sufficient personal knowledge to admit or deny this paragraph.

8. FJR does not have sufficient personal knowledge to admit or deny this paragraph.

**“The Fraudulent Transactions”**

9. This paragraph is admitted.

10. This paragraph is denied. While FJR digitally signed the Merchant Processing Application and Agreement (“MPAA”), neither CardConnect nor its member bank (Wells Fargo) ever did. (Doc. 29-4, pg. 5). The MPAA contained express conditions precedent to its formation and effectiveness by providing that “Merchant understands this

agreement shall not take effect until Merchant has been approved by CardConnect and/or the Member Bank and a merchant number is issued.” (Doc. 29-4, pg. 5). Neither CardConnect nor its member bank signed the MPAA indicating their approval, and this is undisputed. (Doc. 29-4, pg. 5; Doc. 31, § 1). Accordingly, no contract was formed by the contract’s very own terms. (Doc. 29-4, pg. 5).

11. This paragraph is admitted.

12. This paragraph is admitted.

13. This paragraph is admitted.

14. This paragraph is admitted.

**“The February 11<sup>th</sup> Transactions: \$50,000”**

15. This paragraph is admitted.

16. This paragraph is denied. CardConnect worked with FJR to remove the hold on FJR’s operating account, requesting various documents which FJR provided. (Doc. 30-1, ¶¶ 10-12; Doc. 30-3).

17. This paragraph is denied. The transaction was unsuccessful because Third-Party Defendant Antonio Hernandez’s (“Hernandez”) card was fraudulent, not because of any “rejection” by CardConnect. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 19; Doc. 30-5). CardConnect did not confirm the fraudulence of Hernandez’s card to FJR until May 30, 2019. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 19; Doc. 30-5). In fact, representatives of CardConnect had to ask FJR if Hernandez’s account had ever been debited on May 29, 2019. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 19; Doc. 30-5).

18. This paragraph is denied to the extent CardConnect asserts that it rejected the transactions. (Doc. 30-1, ¶¶ 10-12; Doc. 30-3; Doc. 30-1, ¶ 19; Doc. 30-5). To the extent the paragraph discusses whether the credit card was charged and whether

CardConnect received the funds, FJR does not have sufficient personal knowledge to admit or deny this paragraph.

19. This paragraph is admitted to the extent that \$50,000 was deposited into FJR's IOLTA account. This paragraph is denied to the extent CardConnect alleges that it rejected the transaction. (Doc. 30-1, ¶¶ 10-12; Doc. 30-3; Doc. 30-1, ¶ 19; Doc. 30-5).

20. This paragraph is denied. The deposit was made with CardConnect's knowledge and CardConnect representatives worked with FJR to remove the hold on FJR's operating account. (Doc. 30-1, ¶¶ 10-12; Doc. 30-3).

21. This paragraph is denied. CardConnect made no such advisory of the fraudulence of Hernandez's card until late May, 2019. By this time, CardConnect approved an increase on FJR's debit limit to allow for larger transactions. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 19; Doc. 30-5; Doc. 30-6, ¶ 9; Doc. 30-4).

22. This paragraph is admitted to the extent CardConnect admits that it did not inform FJR that the transactions had not processed until May 30, 2019. The paragraph is denied to the extent CardConnect asserts it provided "proof." CardConnect's "proof" was a screenshot of a spreadsheet purporting to show the transactions not processing. (Doc. 30-7). FJR never received any statements from CardConnect's bank confirming that the transactions never processed.

23. This paragraph is admitted to the extent that CardConnect placed a debit on FJR's operating account at the same time it deposited the funds into FJR's IOLTA account. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 10).

24. This paragraph is denied. CardConnect's attempt to obtain the \$50,000 out of FJR's operating account in February 2019 was not the result of a debit block, but rather

insufficient funds being in FJR's operating account to fulfill the transaction resulting in a hold. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 10). CardConnect worked with FJR to remove this hold on his operating account. (Doc. 30-1, ¶¶ 10-12; Doc. 30-3). FJR admits to placing a debit block on the account, but not until much later on May 30, 2019.

25. This paragraph is admitted. FJR has not removed the debit block he placed on his account on May 30, 2019.

26. This paragraph is admitted.

27. This paragraph is admitted.

**“The April 23rd Transactions: \$85,000.00 & 99,999.99”**

28. This paragraph is admitted.

29. This paragraph is denied. CardConnect did not reject the transactions, but rather again worked with FJR through its representatives to remove the hold placed on FJR's operating account by requesting various items. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 18; Doc. 30-4, pg. 2).

30. This paragraph is denied. The transaction was unsuccessful because Third-Party Defendant Antonio Hernandez's ("Hernandez") card was fraudulent, not because of any "rejection" by CardConnect. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 19; Doc. 30-5). CardConnect did not confirm the fraudulence of Hernandez's card to FJR until May 30, 2019. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 19; Doc. 30-5). In fact, representatives of CardConnect had to ask FJR if Hernandez's account had ever been debited on May 29, 2019. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 19; Doc. 30-5).

31. This paragraph is denied to the extent CardConnect asserts that it rejected the transactions. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 18<sup>1</sup>; Doc. 30-4, pg. 2). To the extent the paragraph

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<sup>1</sup> FJR's affidavit was mistakenly mis-numerated by labeling paragraph 17 as paragraph 18. To avoid confusion, FJR refers to his affidavit based on how it is numbered.

discusses whether the credit card was charged and whether CardConnect received the funds, FJR does not have sufficient personal knowledge to admit or deny this paragraph.

32. This paragraph is admitted to the extent that the \$85,000.00 and \$99,999.99 was deposited into FJR's IOLTA account. This paragraph is denied to the extent CardConnect alleges that it rejected the transaction. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 18; Doc. 30-4, pg. 2).

33. This paragraph is denied. The deposit was made with CardConnect's knowledge and CardConnect representatives worked with FJR to remove the hold on FJR's operating account. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 18; Doc. 30-4, pg. 2).

34. This paragraph is denied. CardConnect made no such advisory of the fraudulence of Hernandez's card until late May, 2019. By this time, CardConnect approved an increase on FJR's debit limit to allow for larger transactions. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 19; Doc. 30-5; Doc. 30-6, ¶ 9; Doc. 30-4).

35. This paragraph is admitted to the extent CardConnect admits that it did not inform FJR that the transactions had not processed until May 30, 2019. The paragraph is denied to the extent CardConnect asserts it provided "proof." CardConnect's "proof" was a screenshot of a spreadsheet purporting to show the transactions not processing. (Doc. 30-7). FJR never received any statements from CardConnect's bank confirming that the transactions never processed.

36. This paragraph is admitted to the extent that CardConnect placed a debit on FJR's operating account at the same time it deposited the funds into FJR's IOLTA account. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 16).

37. This paragraph is denied. CardConnect's attempt to obtain the \$85,000.00 and \$99,999.99 out of FJR's operating account in April 2019 was not the result of a debit

block, but rather insufficient funds being in FJR's operating account to fulfill the transaction resulting in a hold. (Doc. 30-1, ¶ 10). CardConnect worked with FJR to remove this hold on his operating account. (Doc. 30-1, ¶¶ 10-12; Doc. 30-3). FJR did not place a debit block on the account until much later on May 30, 2019.

38. This paragraph is admitted. FJR has not removed the debit block he placed on his account on May 30, 2019.

39. This paragraph is admitted.

40. This paragraph is admitted.

DATED: December 18, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/ Francisco J. Rodriguez

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served to the following counsel of record on this 18th day of December, 2020, to wit:

VIA E-MAIL: john.peterson@polsinelli.com

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/s/ Francisco J. Rodriguez  
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